

FIRECRACKER INJURY

Prevention Month

DOH advice for firecracker injuries:

Firecracker Burns:

- For minor burns, let cool water run over the affected area or Wash the injured part of the body with clean water.
- Wrap the wound using clean, dry cloth and bring the victim to the hospital immediately.
- Do NOT apply toothpaste to the wound or burn.

Eye Injury:

Do not wash them out. Instead, have the victim close their eyes. Cover the eyes with a cloth to prevent further scratching of the corneas.

If a Firecracker is swallowed:

- If the victim has swallowed a firecracker or its elements, have them drink raw egg whites. A FAQ from the department recommends eight to 12 egg whites for an adult and six to eight for a child.
- Bring the patient to the nearest hospital or Poison Control Center.

NOTE: If a body part like a finger or a hand is directly hit by an exploding firecracker, cover the affected part with a clean cloth, try to stop the bleeding by putting pressure on it, and immediately bring the patient to the Emergency Room.

DO's and DON'Ts:

- Do light firecrackers outdoors, as they are potential fire hazards.
- Do light one firecracker at a time, then move away from them quickly.
- Do keep a bucket of water or garden hose nearby.
- After fireworks are done burning, douse them with plenty of water to prevent trash fire.
- Do not hold a firecracker while lighting it.
- Do not carry fireworks in your pockets or shoot them off in a glass or metal container.
- Do not pick up failed firecrackers, they can still explode.
- When lighting fireworks like a fountain, do not bend directly over the pyrotechnic devices.
- Do not throw firecrackers at passing people or vehicles.
- Do not allow children to hold firecrackers, especially the watusi and the piccolo.
- Do not experiment with homemade fireworks.
- Only use legal fireworks.

Reference: <http://www.asianhospital.com/health-digest/burns-safety-tips-preventing-fire-crackerinjury/>
<http://www.cdc.gov/family/minutes/tips/fireworks/>



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